

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the last full paragraph beginning on page 5, line 27 of the Substitute Specification with the following amended paragraph:

When using semiconductor switches on the 14V side, the switch having the short-circuited 14V load becomes conducting via the inverse diode, which is always present, of the respective semiconductor switch and thus connects all the 14V consumers to 42V, so there is a risk to the consumers that are not designed for the higher voltage. Figure 1 illustrates such a short circuit. A resistor RK situated on the voltage side between resistors R8 and R13 represents a short circuit which is either to be avoided according to the present invention or whose effects are at least to be mitigated. How a short circuit symbolized by resistor [[R16]] RK may be prevented or its effects minimized will be explained in greater detail below.